

STATEMENT OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR
OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ON UNIVERSAL MILITARY
TRAINING, IN A PANEL DISCUSSION, OVER RADIO
STATION W.I.S., COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA,
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As a member of the Armed Services in World War II,

I saw what happened when hastily trained men are thrown into combat.

The waste is criminal.

The deciding factor in bringing victory to the allied cause was a preponderance of machinery and well trained men. The importance of properly trained men cannot be over-emphasized. This statement has been proved on a hundred battlefields.

To provide a speedy means of expanding our initial defenses, our striking force, and to insure perpetuation of our reserve elements, we must put into effect a program which will prepare all potential combat manpower for a proper place on our fighting team. I believe the only way to do this is through Universal Military Training.

The Peace of the world is most seriously threatened. Will war come? We all hope not, but we must be prepared for it. And we must be prepared for a new state of war. The experts forecast that the war will open up like this:

First, the war will come with lightning swiftness.

There will be no buildup. The Japanese gave the world an elementary objective lesson on how modern war will begin. The next time, there

will be even less warning than Japan gave.

Second, the United States will undoubtedly be the first target. Twice before, nations bent on aggression have failed to take the United States into accounting soon enough. In both of these wars, the industrial productivity of the United States turned the tide. No nation will make such a mistake again.

Third, the weapons will be vastly more devastating than those we now know. Guided missiles will streak over oceans and the poles. Pre-concealed explosives will boom at a hundred American cities. Biological weapons, more thorough killers than the atomic bomb, will be let loose to ravage the land. Saboteurs and fifth columnists organized with an efficiency heretofore unknown, will spring up like dragon's teeth. Air invasion forces will come down at strategic places all over the nation.

In order to survive such an attack, and in order to take the offensive in a war which may be won or lost in perhaps a few weeks, we must have millions of citizens trained before war begins. It would be national suicide for us to think that we can again, as we have in all of our wars in the past, take months and years to get ready for action.

We must institute Universal Military Training immediately. We cannot depend upon volunteers or draftees. By the time their hasty, incomplete training would get under way, the war could well be over.

The citizens of our country have many privileges.

But the continued enjoyment of those privileges requires the assumption of definite obligations. The foremost is the obligation to preserve, protect, and defend our nation. They can best be fitted for this duty through the agency of Universal Military Training. It is the most orderly method yet presented for employing our manpower resources most fully.

The regular military establishments, the Organized Reserves, and the National Guard, are obviously inadequate for modern war without Universal Military Training.

Let's consider a few major reasons why we must have military training:

1. A strong America is the world's best guarantee of peace. Two world wars have been fought because America was weak. We know now that Hitler advanced his schedule of conquest 5 years because he thought America and other democracies had not the strength to resist.

2. All our major wars have been fought chiefly by civilians. Our regular forces made up less than 10 percent of the men involved. This being the case, we owe it to ourselves to give our citizens adequate training well in advance of the time they may be called upon. An untrained soldier is very likely to become a dead soldier.

3. The fact that the United States will be the first target requires millions of trained citizens always ready. We must be ready to deal with devastation in many cities, and simultaneous air invasions at scattered points. Unorganized, untrained citizens would be helpless in the face of multiple disaster. Even though men may have undergone Universal Military Training many years before, and may not then be qualified for offensive service, they will be absolutely essential for proper civilian defense. The value of such a trained reserve cannot be over estimated in the time of need. They will be scattered all over the nation, and the entire nation will be the enemy's target.

We have gambled with our nation's security too much already. That is a paramount reason why we must have Universal Military Training at once.

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